



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JUL 25 2014

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-2004

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your June 24, 2014 letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy concerning the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the Amtrak Susquehanna River Bridge, particularly the potential inclusion of a bicycle and pedestrian crossing in the project. The existing bridge crosses over the Susquehanna River between Harford and Cecil Counties in Maryland.

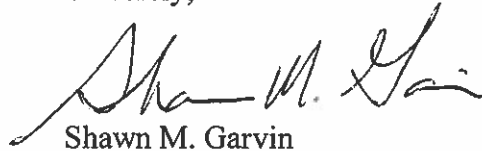
EPA is aware of the Environmental Assessment study for Amtrak Susquehanna River Bridge Replacement Project that is currently under development by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), working with the Maryland Transit Administration and Amtrak. FRA and MDOT have involved several state and federal resource agencies, including EPA during early scoping and the development of project purpose and needs. Through this involvement, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided comments including bicycle and pedestrian mobility on the bridge. It is our understanding, FRA and MDOT plan to incorporate a pedestrian and bicycle crossing for each alternative that is considered in the NEPA study. EPA does support including this component as part of the bridge replacement project.

We also understand that FRA and MDOT have conducted several public outreach sessions on the project where the concept of a pedestrian and bicycle connection was also raised. FRA is taking these comments by both the public and resource agencies under consideration as they move forward with the EPA process. EPA will continue to be engaged in the NEPA process for this project and will continue to encourage FRA, MDOT and Amtrak to coordinate with pedestrian and bicycle stakeholders such as the Susquehanna Safe Crossing Coalition.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Susquehanna River Bridge Replacement Project and plans to incorporate a bicycle and pedestrian connection, please consider reaching out to project contacts from FRA, Ms. Michelle Fishburne at 202-493-0398, or MDOT, Mr. Harry Romano at 410-684-7063.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mrs. Linda Miller, EPA's Maryland Liaison, at 215-814-2068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn M. Garvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shawn" being the most prominent.

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

cc: Michelle Fishburne, FRA
Harry Romano, MDOT